



## Mascaruba is named the winner of the Crystal Cactus for 2006

Established five years ago, the Crystal Cactus award is annually bestowed by the Grupo Pa Promove Papiamentu to an individual who the board considers to have made the greatest contribution to culture and literature in Aruba's native language of Papiamentu. Previous literary luminaries to receive this honor have been Senora Digna Lacle-Herrera, Hubert "Lio" Booi, Ernesto Rosenstand, and Ramon Todd Dandare.

Recently, Martin "Tinchi" Flanegin of the Department of Education and Lourdes Croes of the Biblioteca Nacional in Oranjestad announced that this year, for the first time, the award will be presented to a group, and that is Aruba's national theatre company, Mascaruba.

In April, Mascaruba celebrated its forty-fifth anniversary with a presentation of the classic Spanish work "Senora Zapate" (The Shoemaker's Wonderful Wife) by famed Spanish dramatist Federico Garcia Lorca, but translated into Papiamentu. Mascaruba has not only provided classic international drama and comedy to the people in Papiamentu, but also staged many original works by Aruban playwrights, featuring local talent.

Mascaruba presented their first work in 1961, on the stage of what was then a newly constructed Cas di Cultura titled "Ketty n'sa Gaña Nunca." (Ketty Never Wins.) Since then Mascaruba has staged sixty-five productions for the Aruban public, of which over twenty were from local authors.

According to the board of Grupo Pa Promove Papiamentu, Mascaruba as an organization ably fulfills the requirements to earn the "Crystal Cactus" award; the propagation of an appreciation and pride for the native language of Aruba, and the elegant use of it in literature, or in this case, drama. The award will be officially presented to representatives of Mascaruba on Wednesday evening, September 13 during a reception from 8:00 to 10:00 taking place at the Biblioteca Nacional in Oranjestad. This event is one of a series of events that will be held at the library every Wednesday evening during the month of September as part of the "Luna Cultural" or National Month of Culture.